

August 9, 2005. This response is consistent with the issues discussed and agreements reached during the interview.

Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 20-27 and 29-34 as anticipated by *Chandley et al.* for at least the reason that *Chandley et al.* does not disclose every claim element.

Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection with respect to claims 20-25 for at least the reason that *Chandley et al.* does not disclose every claim element. For example, independent claim 20, from which claims 21-25 ultimately depend, recites a combination of elements including, among other things, a metal alloy substantially filling a volume between an external surface of a refractory shell and a housing. As discussed and agreed during the interview, *Chandley et al.* fails to disclose at least the use of a metal alloy substantially filling a volume between an external surface of a refractory shell and a housing.

Because *Chandley et al.* does not disclose all of the claim elements of independent claim 20, and claims 21-25 that depend therefrom, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) with respect to these claims is improper and should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection with respect to claims 26, 27, and 29-34 for at least the reason that *Chandley et al.* does not disclose every claim element. For example, independent claim 26, from which claims 27 and 29-34 ultimately depend, recites a combination of elements including, among other things, a pressure casting apparatus having an inlet sprue and a die cavity. As discussed and agreed during the interview, *Chandley et al.* fails to disclose at least a pressure casting apparatus having an inlet sprue and a die cavity.

Because *Chandley et al.* does not disclose all of the claim elements of independent claim 26, and claims 27 and 29-34 that depend therefrom, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) with respect to these claims is improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims.

The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement of characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 15, 2005

By:



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